Free books in primary schools in H.P.

1461. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide free text books and note books in primary schools in Himachal Pradesh, in order to encourage people below the poverty line to send their children to schools; and

(b) if so, the funds provided to the State during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to the information furnished by Government of Himachal Pradesh free text books are being provided to all SC/ST/OBC and students of Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) families in Non-Tribal Area and to all students of Tribal Areas in the State. Free writing material is also being provided to all students in Tribal Area and to the poor students of all categories in Non-Tribal Areas.

(b) Year-wise Funds allocated for the purpose is given as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Funds
1999-2000	269.12
2000-2001	359.50
2001-2002	302.00

Compulsory State Languages in School

1462. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has made Kannada language compulsory at school level in the State;